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1965-06-27, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

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Recommended Citation

Barto, Bette J., "1965-06-27, Bette to Parents" (1965). *Bette J. Barto Correspondence Collection*. 138.
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Subject Terms

Women and the military, Women and war, United States -- Air Force, United States -- Army -- Air Forces, Photographs, Armed Forces -- Correspondence, Correspondence -- Vietnam War -- 1961-1975, Christmas

Summary

This collection contains 139 correspondence from Maj. Bette J. Barto, USAFE to her parents while serving as a nurse during the late 1950s and 1960s. Also included are three photographs, one special orders document, and one marriage license. In several cases, Bette refers to her parents as "Lizzie" and "Hugh Elmer," or simply "Elmer." Three letters from 1961 or 1962 are undated and placed in a separate folder.

Keywords

1965-06-27

Identifier

2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1965-06-27

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Capt Belle Darts
707 Farmington Drive
Derby, Kansas



Airmail



4681
12
-5761
1961

Mr & Mrs. H.E. Harris
1717 Highland Avenue
Knoxville 16, Tennessee
37916

27 June 65
Sunday Nite
9¹⁵/_{pm}

Dear Mom & Daddy, & Helen & Joey &
the kids if they are with you,

Ray just called me from Denver.
The plane he was to take to San
Francisco was being called as he talked.
He had talked to Pelly only a few mom-
ents before. She didn't know who he was
for a little while. Her apartment mate
is from Helina, Kansas, so Pelly said she
might come to see me in a month or so.
I guess she isn't married yet and is
still working at the V.A. Hosp. in Denver.

Ray left here at 5⁴⁰ on a turbojet
and made good time. He will spend
the night in San Francisco (he will go
from Denver on the 707 Stratojet) and
will leave from Travis AFB (outside of
San Francisco) and from there to Wake
Island and from there to Bangkok. His
location in Thailand is classified I
guess. But you will know that the
F-105's seeing action over Vietnam
are his Squadron. He expects to be in
combat by Wednesday. I pray he is
able to do his job and come home.

Don't mention anything about where he is to anyone else because it is difficult to know what tidbit of information may help someone piece together something detrimental to the safety of our troops. This place out here is so shitty. Everyone talks about anything & everything so it's hard to know what's to be discussed and what's not. I'm sure it's ok just to say Ray's in Southeast Asia.

I did pretty well until this afternoon and then I cried a bucketful even if I knew it made things harder for Ray. I just can't turn it off. The pups are napping now, they've spent most of the evening watching for Ray out the front window. I stopped by the grocery store to get them some new puppy treats to take their mind off watching for him. He took a long walk down in the field behind the 4 new houses across from us. They found a tennis ball and had a big chase with that then we came home & I scrubbed my head and polished all my white shoes so I'm ready for bed in a minute or two.

Here's a picture of my Red Cross Youth Volunteers class & me. They all are working real faithfully so far. I did the best I could with my 15 short hours with them.

The flood is due in Wichita on about Wednesday so I figure the high waters should reach Derby Shurs. or Friday. The big ditches around Wichita are filling way up already but they believed these will be adequate to hold it all.

If you decide to come visit in July, try to plan on staying until at least 15 August. Ray might be home by then, but there's no guarantee. One of my neighbors says that the best train connections aren't always directly into Wichita but to Newton, Kansas. So when you plan your route, if they mention Newton, that's OK, for it's close to me also. So come on out, Liz, and stay as long as you can.

Gotta quit & get to bed. I work on the medical ward for the next 2 wks; after that I'm up for grabs again. I hope I go to the Clinic then but it's still anybody's guess.

Y'rite for now.

I love you,
I hope then, Jay & I & J's can stay long enough to make all your prettying up worthwhile. I wish I could have seen them. Love, B